

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 01031 061804Z

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 COA-01

DLOS-03 CCO-00 OTPE-00 FCC-01 OCE-00 BIB-01 NASA-01

L-02 SS-15 NSC-05 /068 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7342

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, TSPA, GR

SUBJECT: IMCO: MARITIME SATELLITES

REF: STATE A-46, 1/6/75 AND 617, 1/2/75

STATE PASS OTP, FCC, COAST GUARD, NASA, MARAD

COPENHAGEN PASS O'NEIL, AM CLUB

1. US TEAM HAD MORNING MEETING WITH GOG REPRESENTATIVES OF MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS, MINISTRY OF MERCHANT MARINE, AND HELLENIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS ORGANIZATION (OTE). FOREIGN MINISTRY INVITED TO MEETING BUT FAILED TO ATTEND.

2. AFTER US PRESENTATION OF RECOMMENDED TWO-AGREEMENT SOLUTION GREEKS MADE POINT THAT US SOLUTION WAS RAISED LATE IN GAME AND POSED SERIOUS PROBLEM REGARDING PROGRESS TO BE EXPECTED AT LONDON. ALTHOUGH GOG HAS NOT YET FINAL DECISION ON POSITIONS RE THE SEVERAL ASPECTS OF POE DRAFT CONVENTION, THEY WOULD PREFER TO WORK WITH ONE DRAFT AT LONDON. NONETHELESS THE GREEK REPRESENTATIVES WILL STUDY US PROPOSAL CAREFULLY AND THEN MAKE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 ATHENS 01031 061804Z

RECOMMENDATIONS TO MINISTER OF MERCHANT MARINE AND MINISTER OF

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS, (LATTER WILL NEED MAKE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION). GOG REPS INDICATE THAT THE PM WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO MAKE FINAL DECISION.

3. GREEKS EXPLORED CAREFULLY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN USG AND DESIGNATED ENTITY IN INMARSAT, ASKING PARTICULARLY WHAT WOULD BE USG POSITION SHOULD INMARSAT ORGANIZATION REQUIRE ADDITIONAL CAPITAL CONTRIBUTION AND US DESIGNATED ENTITY RELUCTANT TO DO SO. US TEAM MADE CLEAR THAT USG CAN NOT GUARANTEE FINANCIALLY BUT THAT THERE WOULD BE CLOSE USG CONSULTATION WITH DESIGNATED ENTITY. WHILE APPEARING TO UNDERSTAND USG RELATIONSHIP WITH DESIGNATED ENTITY THEY DID EXPRESS SOME CONCERN AS TO HOW RELATIONSHIP MIGHT OPERATE IN SOME OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH THEY DID NOT NAME.

4. ON OTHER SUBJECTS, GREEKS SHOWED SOME FLEXIBILITY ON PROCUREMENT POLICY, SUPPORT OF ACCESS TO SHIPS OF ALL NATIONS AS WELL AS EQUAL CHARGES FOR MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS. GREEKS ALSO AGREED ON PRINCIPLE THAT SHIPS OWNERS AND OPERATORS MUST HAVE MECHANISM FOR REGULAR INPUT OF VIEWS TO INMARSAT ON ADVISORY BASIS, BUT THAT DETAILS COULD BE WORKED OUT AT CONFERENCE. THEY ALSO SAID THAT THEY DID NOT HAVE A COMPLETE SURVEY OF GREEK SHIP OWNER ATTITUDES TOWARD MARITIME SATELLITE SYSTEM BUT RESPONSE SO FAR IS OF GENERAL INTEREST. GOG POLICY NOW IS THAT SHIP OWNERS BUY OWN COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT AND POLICY WOULD PROBABLY REMAIN UNCHANGED WITH SHIP TERMINALS, UNLESS THEY SO EXPENSIVE THAT GOG LOAN TO OWNER MIGHT BE NECESSARY. THEY ARE INTERESTED IN SYSTEMS HAVING DISTRESS AND NAVIGATIONAL CAPABILITY PROVIDED ADDITION THESE CAPABILITIES DOES NOT SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE SYSTEM COST. THEY BELIEVE INMARSAT'S PRIMARY CUSTOMERS ARE SHIPS OF AT LEAST 10,000 GRT.
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